

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1351

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

CINCUSAREUR UNN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CDES, CASC, MILI, GE

SUBJECT: RECOVERY OF WORLD WAR II PILOT REMAINS

REF: (A) USBER 1099; (B) STATE 146515; (C) LETTER FROM US
ARMY MORTUARY SYSTEM, EUROPE, APO NY 09757 OF JULY 27,
1972 TO CINCUSAREUR, ATTN: AEAAG-AP (NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF REF (B), THE EMBASSY ADDRESSED
A NOTE TO GDR MFA, OUTLINING AVAILABLE INFORMATION ON
LOCATION OF REMAINS OF WWII PILOT NEAR OBERHOF, THURINGIA,
AND REQUESTING MFA ASSISTANCE IN VERIFYING AND POSSIBLY
REMOVING THESE REMAINS BY US ARMED FORCES MORTUARY OFFICERS
ENTERING GDR FROM FRG.

2. IN LATE AUGUST, DURING DISCUSSIONS WITH CONSULAR
DEPARTMENT MFA (SEIDEL AND WETTER) ON ANOTHER SUBJECT,
MRS. SIDEL ADVISED EMBOFF ORALLY THAT GDR AUTHORITIES
HAD THOROUGHLY SEARCHED OBERHOF VICINITY AND HAD BEEN
UNABLE TO LOCATE ANY TRACE OF REMAINS IN QUESTION.

3. REF (C) INCLUDES A LETTER FROM A MR. PAUL WEISS,
DATED MAY 16, 1972, RESIDING AT 6069 ZELL-MEHLIS/
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THURINGIA, KOHLENMAGAZIN 1, INDICATING THAT THIS PERSON

KNOWS ONE ADALBERT WOLF, WHO HAS PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE LOCATION OF THESE REMAINS. IT IS STATED IN THE LETTER THAT MR. WOLF HAS TURNED OVER THE DOG TAGS FOUND AT THE SCENE OF THE CRASH TO THE LOCAL POLICE, ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO INDICATION OF WHEN THIS WAS DONE. THE LETTER ALSO STATES THAT PHOTOGRAPH OF THE DOWNED PILOT HAS BEEN FORWARDED TO THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AT GENEVA, AND ITS RECEIPT ACKNOWLEDGED, AGAIN WITHOUT ANY SPECIFIC DATA BEING GIVEN FOR THIS ACTION.

4. THERE APPEAR TO BE TWO OPTIONS OPEN AT THE PRESENT TIME:

A. THAT US MILITARY AUTHORITIES INITIATE CORRESPONDENCE IN THE SHINDLER (600 FRANKFURT/MAIN - HOMBURGERLANDSTR. 75) TO WEISS CHANNEL TO DETERMINE IF THERE WOULD BE ANY DIFFICULTY FOR MR. WEISS OR FOR MR. WOLF SHOULD THE GDR AUTHORITIES BE CONTACTED BY THE EMBASSY, GIVING THEIR NAMES AS PERSONS KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THE LOCATION OF THE REMAINS:
OR

B. THAT THE EMBASSY TELL THE GDR AUTHORITIES, WITHOUT FIRST CHECKING WITH MR. WEISS, THAT BOTH WEISS AND WOLF HAVE SUCH KNOWLEDGE AND SHOULD BE CONTACTED IN ORDER TO EXPEDITE LOCATION OF THE REMAINS.

SINCE MR. WOLF IS A PENSIONER, APPARENTLY 75 YEARS OLD AT PRESENT, IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT HE WOULD BE PLACED IN ANY PERSONAL JEOPARDY BY PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO THE GDR AUTHORITIES IN LOCATING THESE REMAINS. WE ARE UNSURE, HOWEVER, ABOUT MR. WEISS AND FOR THIS REASON FAVOR OPTION (A.) GIVEN ABOVE. IF THE RESULTS OF OPTION

(A.) PRODUCE A GO-AHEAD, THE EMBASSY WOULD BE PREPARED TO RAISE THE MATTER AND PROVIDE THE NAMES OF THESE INDIVIDUALS TO THE GDR AUTHORITIES.

5. PLEASE ADVISE.COOPER

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